

**MEMORANDUM**

From: Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Research Board  
To: GoMRI (RFP-I) (RFP-II) Investigators  
Subj: Compliance with Master Research Agreement Data Policies

The Research Board has approved Continuation and Carry Forward of funds for all consortia and RFP-II awardees for 2014. The Research Board will require all consortia and RFP-II individual projects to be in compliance with GoMRI data submission requirements prior to approval of 2015 Continuation and Carry Forward or no-cost extensions.

As a reminder, as required by your grant agreements, data (which is inclusive of associated meta data) must be submitted to the GoMRI Information and Data Cooperative (GRIIDC) in accordance with section 4.3 of the Master Research Agreement: “(i) publish completed scientific studies and associated data in a timely manner... and (k) submit data to the Research Database, pursuant to Research Board policies...” Additionally, the Master Research Agreement (MRA) also states in section 9.2.4 that “...all data shall be fully accessible and posted [to the GRIIDC] with minimum time delay.”

The Research Board policy interprets the meaning of “timely manner” and “minimum time delay” as no later than the date of publication of results. If a scientific publication is not expected within 12 months of the data being collected then the interpretation of “timely manner” and “minimum time delay” is no later than 12 months after the collection of the data. In most cases standard oceanographic data can and should be submitted with very short time delay. A request for extension of any data set beyond 12 months before submission to GRIIDC shall be regarded as an extraordinary exception and should be carefully justified. Exceeding these deadlines without prior approval will be taken as a breach of the MRA.

The Research Board also interprets the language in MRA section 4.3k that “...all data shall be fully accessible...” to mean that the data will be made accessible to the public at this time.

Exceptions to the requirements that data be submitted to GRIIDC and simultaneously accessible to the public may be granted by request to the Research Board Data Committee via the GRIIDC.

The status of compliance with the GoMRI data policy of a researcher’s GoMRI awards will be made known to the GoMRI Research Board for consideration in their deliberations for Carry Forward and Continuation requests, No Cost Extension requests and future RFPs.

It is expected that you will share this information with the members of your consortium or research team.